It is not so good to eat as a Partridge, and shows but poor sport, seeking to evade dogs by running, and when flushed flying low. *Rhynchotis rufescens* was some years ago quite common near Buenos Ayres; but now "civilization" has driven it backwards, so that it is not to be found in any numbers within 100 miles of this place. It is still abundant at Chirilcay, where it is caught by men and boys on horseback. When a bird is sighted the horseman commences riding round it in narrowing circles, until he can pass a horsehair noose over its head from the end of a long stick. The bird, when alarmed, invariably squats instead of running away. In the country they are to be bought for 2*d*. a piece; in the town they fetch from 1*s*. 6*d*. to 2*s*. 6*d*. each. The flesh is white and dry. One I flushed in the campo rose straight up, like a Pheasant, and then flew with a steady flight about 300 yards before it settled again.

XVII.—*Notes on the Genus* Helminthophaga.

By Robert Ridgway.

The genus *Helminthophaga* ranks second in importance in the family Mniotiltidæ, one of the most characteristic of the Nearctic avifauna of all belonging to that region; and its numerous species are all strictly North American. They are distinguished for their graceful form, and, with few exceptions, for their very pretty or even beautiful colouring.

As is the case with the species of the genus *Dendrœca*, the most numerous of all the Mniotiltidæ, the species of *Helminthophaga* belong chiefly to the Eastern Province, only four of the ten that are known being found in the country westward of the Rocky Mountains; and two of these are common to both halves of the continent. But this remark may be deemed superfluous when it is recalled that the same may be said of the family in general, of whose sixty-one species known to occur within the United States, as many as thirty-nine, or about two thirds, are confined to the Eastern Province; while the proportion of peculiar genera stands as nine eastern to none western[†]. During the breeding-season the species of *Helminthophaga* are distributed as follows:—

	Eastern Province.					Western Province.		
	Hudsonian.	Canadian.	Alleghanian.	Carolinian.	Austroriparian.	Sonoran.	Rocky-Mountain.	Sitkan.
1. *H. pinus*	..	..	..	*	*			
2. *H. lawrencii*	..	..	..	*	?			
3. *H. chrysoptera*	..	..	*	*				
4. *H. leucobronchialis*	..	..	..	*				
5. *H. bachmani*	..	..	..	..	*			
6. *H. ruficapilla*	?	*	*	..	..	..	?[‡]	
7. *H. virginiæ*	..	..	..	..	..	..	*	
8. *H. luciæ*	..	..	..	..	..	*		
9. *H. celata*	?	..	..	..	..	..	*	*[§]
10. *H. peregrina*	*	*						

Regarding the characters of this genus little need here be said, beyond that it is distinguished from all other Mniotiltidæ, except *Parula* and *Perissoglossa*, by its very acute bill, with nearly straight culmen and gonys, and from these two genera by the absence of a notch on the superior tomium of the bill, and of rictal bristles at its base. The species all nest on or near the ground (as is the habit of *Geothlypis*, *Oporornis*, and *Siurus*), and lay white eggs, speckled, rather faintly, with reddish brown, chiefly round the larger end. Several of the species (notably *ruficapilla, virginiæ, luciæ,* and *celata*) are pleasing though rather weak-voiced songsters, while the song of *H. pinus* closely resembles the monotonous lisping of certain grasshoppers.

[†] It is, of course, understood that I do not here refer to the Mexican genera *Granatellus*, *Ergaticus*, *Cardellina*, and *Basileuterus*, all of which have representatives within our south-western border.

[‡] Specimens of a western race (*gutturalis*, Ridgway, Hist. N. Am. B. ii. p. 191) have been taken in the autumn at various localities in the western portions of the United States, including even Southern California; it is therefore presumed that they were bred on the mountains to the northward or in the interior.

[§] This species occurs in two well-marked geographical races:—the true *celata*, Say, belonging to the Eastern Province, including Florida and Illinois, in winter, and the Rocky Mountains and Alaska; the other, *lutescens*, Ridgw., belonging to the Pacific district of the Western Province, in summer.

The species and geographical races may be distinguished by the following characters:—

A. Wings variegated with white or yellow. Forehead yellow.
  a. Wing with two white bands; belly yellow; back olive-green.
    1. H. PINUS. Throat gamboge-yellow; auriculars yellow, bordered above by a short postocular streak. Eastern province of the United States, in summer.
    2. H. LAWRENCII. Throat deep black; auriculars deep black. Eastern Province of the United States (New Jersey, *Herrick*).
  b. Wing with a large patch of yellow covering both rows of coverts; belly white; back bluish grey.
    3. H. CHRYSOPTERA. Throat deep black (♂) or dull grey (♀) auriculars deep black (♂), or black along upper edge (♀). Eastern Province of the United States.
    4. H. LEUCOBRONCHIALIS. Throat pure white; auriculars white, bordered above by a short postocular streak. Eastern Province of the United States (Eastern Massachusetts, *Brewster*).
B. Wings not variegated. Forehead not yellow (except in *H. bachmani*).
  a. Forehead yellow; inner web of the two outer tail-feathers with a terminal white patch.
    5. H. BACHMANI. Above olive-green; forehead and belly gamboge-yellow; crown grey, in the ♂ bordered anteriorly by a black bar; throat black (♂) or dusky greyish (♀). Eastern Province (Southern Atlantic States) and Cuba.
  b. Forehead greyish; inner webs of outer tail-feathers without distinct white patches.
    6. H. RUFICAPILLA. Above olive-green; the head greyish; lower parts gamboge-yellow; a whitish orbital ring. Male with a concealed patch of chestnut on the crown. North America (rare in the Western Province).
    7. H. VIRGINIÆ. Above grey, beneath whitish; upper tail-coverts yellowish green; lower tail-coverts and patch on the jugulum gamboge-yellow; crown with a concealed patch of chestnut (sometimes obsolete in the ♀). Western Province.
    8. H. LUCIÆ. Above grey, beneath buffy white; crown-patch and upper tail-coverts chestnut. Western Province (south-western district).
    9. H. CELATA. Above olive-green, beneath pale yellowish: crown

with a concealed patch of orange-rufous (obsolete in young, and sometimes in adult ♂ also).

Above greyish, the head sometimes decidedly grey; beneath pale greenish yellow; inner web of outer tail-feathers distinctly edged with white. Eastern Province of North America (including Rocky Mountains) .... *a. celata.*

Above bright olive-green, below greenish gamboge-yellow; inner webs of outer tail-feathers without distinct white edges. Western Province of North America (Pacific district) . . *β. lutescens.*

10. H. PEREGRINA. *A dusky streak through the eye*; no rufous on the crown; above olive-green, the head and neck grey; beneath white (*adult*), or pale dingy yellow (*young*). Eastern Province of North America.

Of the foregoing species only the two recently described admit of any doubt as to their perfect distinctness, all the others having been so long known and thoroughly studied, that all their variations of plumage are familiar. In *H. lawrencii* the exactly intermediate coloration between *H. pinus* and *H. chrysoptera* prompts strong suspicion that the unique example upon which the species is based may be a hybrid between the two; there are, indeed, only two reasons for giving this theory serious consideration, viz. the very strongly marked and rich coloration, and the reluctance with which we are wont to resort to the belief as to the possibility of hybridism as the real solution of the origin and nature of such intermediate specimens. Should the bird eventually prove to illustrate the stable characters of a distinct species, it will be one of the most remarkable illustrations of the evolution doctrine in the North-American *ornis*[*].

The case of *H. leucobronchialis* is somewhat different, there being, instead of a combination of the coloration of two species, simply an imperfect development, as it were, of a single one of them. The coloration in this instance is as if the black had been entirely removed from the gular region and auriculars of a typical adult male of *H. chrysoptera,* leaving these parts entirely pure white, even to the roots of the feathers. The first plumage of the latter species is undescribed and unknown to me; the adult female, however, has, at all seasons, these parts of a dull ash-grey on the surface, darker on the concealed portion of the feathers.

---

[*] The combination of the characters of two very distinct and differently coloured species, in this instance, calls to mind several parallel cases, one of which it may be well to mention here. This one is noted in the 'American Sportsman' for December 12th, 1874 (p. 117), as the capture, by Mr. Christopher D. Wood, of Philadelphia, of a "black-crested and throated Titmouse, the first one ever heard of." It is there suggested that the bird must be "either a sport or a cross between the common Crested Titmouse (*Leophophanes bicolor*) and the Black-cap Titmouse (*Parus atricapillus*)."

The names adopted are based on the following references:—

1. HELMINTHOPHAGA PINUS, Baird, Birds N. Am. 1858, p. 254.

Certhia pinus, Linn. S. N. i. 1766, p. 187.

2. HELMINTHOPHAGA LAWRENCII, Herrick, Pr. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. Nov. 1874, p. 220, pl. 15.

3. HELMINTHOPHAGA CHRYSOPTERA, Cabanis, Mus. Hein. 1850–51, p. 20.

Motacilla chrysoptera, Linn. S. N. i. 1766, p. 333.

4. HELMINTHOPHAGA LEUCOBRONCHIALIS, Brewster, American Sportsman, Oct. 17, 1874, p. 33.

5. HELMINTHOPHAGA BACHMANI, Cabanis, Journ. für Orn. iii. 1855, p. 475.

Helinaia bachmani, Aud. Orn. Biogr. ii. 1834, p. 483, pl. 183.

6. HELMINTHOPHAGA RUFICAPILLA, Baird, B. N. Am. 1858, p. 256.

Sylvia ruficapilla, Wilson, Am. Orn. iii. 1811, p. 120, pl. xxvii. fig. 3.

7. HELMINTHOPHAGA VIRGINIÆ, Baird, B. N. Am. 1858, (under expl. plates, 1870) pl. lxxix. fig. 1.

8. HELMINTHOPHAGA LUCIÆ, Cooper, Pr. Cal. Acad. Sc. July 1861, p. 120.

9. HELMINTHOPHAGA CELATA.

α. celata.

Helminthophaga celata, Baird, B. N. Am. 1858, p. 257.

Sylvia celata, Say, Long's Exped. i. 1823, p. 129.

β. *lutescens.*

Helminthophaga celata, var. *lutescens*, Ridgway, Am. Nat. vii. Oct. 1873, p. 606.

10. Helminthophaga peregrina, Cabanis, Mus. Hein. 1851, p. 20.

Sylvia peregrina, Wilson, Am. Orn. iv. 1811, p. 83, pl. xxv. fig. 2.

XVIII.—*Notes on Severtzoff's 'Fauna of Turkestan' (Turkestanskie Jevotnie).* By H. E. Dresser.

[Continued from p. 94.]

180. Leptopœcile sophiæ, sp. nov. Severtzoff, pp. 66, 135, pl. viii. figs. 8, 9.

Stoliczkana stoliczkæ, Hume, Stray Feath. ii. p. 513.

Horizontal range. Resident in district I.

Vertical range. Winters in district 3 and breeds in district 4.

At page 135 Dr. Severtzoff writes as follows:—"In form this bird approaches the Tits, but in habits and in the form of the bill, as well as in the sexes being different, it differs from these; and I have therefore deemed it best to separate it generically. The characteristics are as follows: bill slender, broader than high, compressed towards the end, nostrils narrow; bill half covered with a membrane; at the base of the upper mandible are a few feathers, which are downy at the base and hairy towards the point; legs stout, tarsus long, coarsely scutellated; hind toe large, with a long arched claw, other toes also long, but the claws are short; wings short and broad; tail long and much graduated, composed of twelve feathers; tarsus with three long and then four short broad scales; 4th and 5th rectrices longest, the two central ones 1‴ shorter, and the outer ones 3‴ to 3½‴ shorter; 1st primary short, twice as long as the coverts; 2nd quill shorter than the 10th, 3=9, 4=10, 5=6, the last two the longest. *Male.* Crown bright brownish chestnut, glossed with violet; a broad yellowish white stripe passes over the eyes; back greyish brown, washed with bluish; rump rich violet-blue; cheeks, sides of the neck and of the body, and throat bright blue, with a violet or greenish gloss; centre of the abdomen brownish yellow; under tail-coverts short and downy, brownish, tipped with violet; wings blackish brown, with light brown margins to the feathers; rectrices nearly black, with bluish green edges, outer web of outer rectrix white; iris dark brown; beak and legs black. *Female.* Greyish, the lower flanks and rump violet-blue, nape light brown, the superciliary stripe narrower than in the male; cheeks and shoulders greyish brown; throat, breast, and belly light brownish yellow; sides light brown, the feathers near the vent tipped with blue; crissum brownish; wings blackish brown, with greyish brown margins to the feathers; tail black, tipped with brown, the outer feather externally margined with white. Male—total length 4″ 9‴, wing 2″, tail 2″ 1½‴, outer tail-feathers 1″ 8½‴, culmen 3½‴. Female—total length 4″ 8‴, extent 6″ 1‴, wing 2″, tail 2″ 1‴, outer tail-feathers 1″ 8½‴. This bird was met with in the pine-woods near Issik-kul, where it was seen amongst the branches of the trees."

At page 135 he also describes a long-tailed Titmouse as new under the name of *Mecistura pöltzami*; and it is figured on pl. ix. fig. 1. I do not, however, give a translation of his description; for he now informs me that he has little doubt that it is referable to *Acredula tephronota* (Günth.). This bird, he says, was found near Astrabad and on the island of Ashir-ade by Mr. Pöltzam, the curator of the Kasan Museum.

He also enumerates five species of Penduline Tits as occurring in Turkestan, viz. *Ægithalus pendulinus*, *Æ. atricapillus*, *Æ. rutilans*, *Æ. macronyx*, and *Æ. coronatus*, the last four being described as new; but he brought his specimens of these birds with him when he paid me a visit a short time ago, and then told me that he had since found that *Æ. atricapillus* and *Æ. coronatus* belong to the same species, and should stand under the name of *Æ. coronatus*, and that *Æ. rutilans* is the young of *Æ. macronyx*, under which latter name it stands; and he also informed me that Mr. Hume's *Ægithalus stoliczkæ* is nothing but his *Æ. coronatus*. He further (p. 136) describes another species of Penduline Titmouse from Astrachan (which does not, however, range as far as Turkestan) under the name of *Ægithalus castaneus,* respecting which he writes as follows:—"This species has been described by Prof. Eversmann as the adult male of *Æ. pendulinus* (Est. Ist. Orenb. iii. pp. 145–147); but so far as I have ascertained from researches in Orenburg, the male of true *Æ. pendulinus* is very different. The present species has the forehead, cheeks, and sides of the head dark-coloured; crown, nape, and down to the back chestnut-red, becoming paler towards the rump, where it is greyish brown; otherwise coloured as *Æ. pendulinus,* but smaller in size. Eversmann says that the dark marking on the cheeks extends over a smaller area, and the crown is greyish in the female. But does he mean greyish brown or true grey? for in the latter case it would be a female of *Æ. pendulinus.* Specimens obtained by Pöltzam near Astrachan, and now in the Kazan Museum, all agree in having the crown and nape chestnut; but the sexes of none are marked."

I have a very good series of the present bird, and consider it an excellent species, quite distinct from *Æ. pendulinus.* As already stated, Dr. Severtzoff describes *Ægithalus coronatus* under two names (*Æ. atricapillus and Æ. coronatus*), and *Æ. macronyx* also under two names (*Æ. macronyx* and *Æ. rutilans*); but it will be sufficient to give one description of each. His description of *Æ. coronatus* (p. 136) is as follows:—" Forehead, sides of the head, both above and below the eye, a portion of the nape and hind neck black; some of the nuchal feathers tipped with white, and a small spot on the centre of the crown is also yellowish white; below the dark portion of the neck is a brownish white collar, and below this, again, a band of chestnut; rest of the upper parts brownish grey; upper tail-coverts whitish, with broad dark greyish fawn-coloured shaft-stripes; upper part of the throat pure white; lower throat, breast, and flanks marked with rust-coloured spots, which are paler on the flanks; abdomen pale brownish; under tail-coverts white, marked with greyish stripes; lesser wing-coverts pale brownish, with a yellow tinge; the larger coverts black, with brownish white tips, externally broadly margined with chestnut-red, so that when the wing is closed the darker portion of the feather is concealed; quills dark greyish fawn, with pale brownish edges; tail-feathers margined with white; beak small, thin, and pointed; hind toe longer than the claw; tarsus covered with two long and four short scales; tail forked, the central rectrices 2‴ shorter than the outer ones; 1st primary short, a little longer than the coverts, 2=6, 3=4=5, the last the longest. Total length 4″ 7‴, extent 6″ 6‴, wing 2″ ½‴, tail 1″ 7‴, culmen 3‴, thickness 1‴, tarsus 5¾‴, middle toe 3½‴, hind toe 2‴, hind claw 2‴. I met with this bird at Chodjent in May 1868; and Mr. Fedchenko found it at Samarcand in April 1869." The next species (*Ægithalus macronyx*) is described (p. 137) as follows:—"Larger than *Æ. pendulinus*, the claws longer and stouter, and the legs stronger; 1st primary short, being equal in length to the coverts, 2=7, 3=6, 4=5, the two last the longest; beak rather flat and broad towards the tip, much larger than in *Æ. pendulinus*. Colour much as in *Æ. pendulinus*; but the black on the head covers the forehead, sides of the head, and fore part and sides of the crown; centre of the crown, nape, and hind neck pale brownish yellow, this colour being separated from the pure brown of the back by a narrow light chestnut band; throat greyish white; breast and abdomen clear pale brownish; wings and tail as in *Æ. pendulinus*; but the margins of the quills are not whitish, but pale brownish; beak nearly black; legs plumbeous. Total length 5″ 1‴, extent 7″, wing 2″ 3½‴, tail 2″, tarsus 6¾‴, middle toe 4½‴, hind toe 3‴, middle claw 2¾‴, hind claw 3¾‴, culmen 4‴, thickness 4‴."

In the table of geographical distribution (p. 66) the range of the above species is given as follows:—

181. ÆGITHALUS PENDULINUS.

Horizontal range. Breeds rarely, and is also rare in winter, in district II., resident in district III.

Vertical range. Resident in district 1, breeds and occurs in winter in district 2, breeds in district 3.

182. ÆGITHALUS ATRICAPILLUS.

Horizontal range. Breeds in district III.

Vertical range. Probably occurs in passage and breeds in district 1; breeds in districts 2 and 3.

183. ÆGITHALUS RUTILANS.

Horizontal range. Resident in district III.

Vertical range. Resident in district 1, and occurs in winter in district 2.

184. ÆGITHALUS MACRONYX.

Range. Same as No. 183.

185. ÆGITHALUS CORONATUS.

Horizontal range. Breeds and possibly resident in district IV.

Vertical range. Breeds in district 2.

All the above are figured on plate 9, viz. *Ægithalus pendulinus* (fig. 2, s. n. *Æ. pendulinus,* var. *jaxartica*), *Ægithalus coronatus* (fig. 3, s. n. *Æ. coronatus*; figs. 4 & 5, s. n. *Æ. atricapillus*), and *Ægithalus macronyx* (fig. 6, s. n. *Æ. rutilans,* var. *cucullata*; fig. 7, s. n. *Æ. rutilans,* var. *pectoralis*; fig. 8, *Æ. macronyx*).

186. CINCLUS ASIATICUS, Sw.; Severtzoff, p. 66.

Horizontal range. Resident in all four districts.

Vertical range. Resident in winter in district 3, breeds commonly and is rare in winter in district 4, and possibly breeds in district 5.

187. ?CINCLUS LEUCOGASTER, Eversm.; Severtzoff, p. 66.

Horizontal range. Resident in all four districts.

Vertical range. Resident in districts 3 and 4, and occurs in summer in district 5.

I have not had an opportunity of examining a specimen of the Dipper from Turkestan; but it appears to me not improbable that the species found there may prove to be *C. cashmiriensis,* and not true *C. leucogaster.*

188 & 189. TROGLODYTES PARVULUS, Koch.

Troglodytes nepalensis et *T. europæus,* Severtzoff, pp. 66, 138.

Horizontal range. Resident in all four districts.

Vertical range. Breeds and is possibly resident in district

1, is found in winter in district 2, and breeds in district 4, and possibly in district 3.

Dr. Severtzoff refers to two species of Wren as above; but in a note pencilled on the margin of my copy of his work he says that the Wren of Turkestan is not specifically distinct from our European bird, being only a very slightly different climatic variety, which he designates as *Troglodytes europæus*, var. *tianshanicus*.

190. SITTA NEUMAYERI, Mich.

Sitta syriaca, Severtzoff, p. 66.

Horizontal range. Resident in all four districts.

Vertical range. Occurs in district 2 in winter, breeds and is resident in district 3.

191. TICHODROMA MURARIA (L.).

Tichodroma phœnicoptera, Severtzoff, p. 66.

Horizontal range. Resident in all four districts.

Vertical range. Is found in winter in districts 1 and 2, but rarely in the former, breeds in districts 3 and 4, and is resident in the former.

192. CERTHIA FAMILIARIS, Severtzoff, p. 66.

Horizontal range. Resident in district I., and occurs accidentally in winter in district III.

Vertical range. Rare in winter in district 2, resident in district 3, and breeds in district 4.

193. CERTHIA HIMALAYANA, Vig.

Certhia tæniura, Severtzoff, pp. 66, 128.

Horizontal range. Resident in districts III. and IV.

Vertical range. Similar to that of No. 192.

Of this species Dr. Severtzoff gives a careful description and details of measurements, which I need not reproduce, as he informs me that he has identified it with *Certhia himalayana*.

194. MOTACILLA ALBA, L.; Severtzoff, p. 66.

Horizontal range. Is found on passage in districts I., II., and III., and occurs in winter in district IV.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in districts 1 and 2.

Under the name of *Motacilla alba, β. dukhunensis*, Dr.

Severtzoff also (pp. 66, 139) gives the following particulars as to range, viz.:—

Horizontal range. Breeds in district I., and occurs on passage in districts II. and III.

Vertical range. Breeds and occurs on passage in districts 1 and 2, breeds in district 3, and is met with on passage in districts 4 and 5.

195. MOTACILLA PERSONATA, Gould; Severtzoff, pp. 66, 139.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts I., II., III., commonly in the two latter; and breeds and is common in winter in district IV.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 1, 2, and 3, rarely in district 1, and commonly in district 2.

I possess a specimen from Turkestan labelled by Dr. Severtzoff *M. personata*, which differs from European examples of *M. alba* merely in having more white on the wings, especially on the coverts, and less white on the sides of the head, this colour being there restricted to the forehead and a space round and, to a slight extent, behind the eye.

195 β. MOTACILLA MADERASPATANA, Gmel.

Motacilla maderaspatensis, Severtzoff, pp. 66, 139.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts II. and III.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 1 and 2, rarely in the former.

195 γ. MOTACILLA JAPONICA, Swinh. (*M. lugens*, Temm. nec Illig.).

Motacilla personata, γ. melanota, Severtzoff, pp. 67, 139.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts III. and IV.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 2 and 3.

Specimens in my collection obtained by Dr. Severtzoff agree closely with examples from Japan.

196. MOTACILLA MELANOPE, Pall.

Motacilla sulphurea, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts I., II., III., and IV., and is found rarely in winter in district III.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in districts 1 and 2, breeds in districts 3 and 4, and occurs rarely in winter in district 2.

197. Motacilla flava, L.

Budytes flava, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Is common on passage in districts I., II., and III., and is found on passage, and rarely in the breeding-season, in district IV.

Vertical range. Is common on passage in districts 1 and 2.

197*a*. Motacilla viridis, Scop.

Budytes flava, β. cinereocapilla, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Occurs on passage in all four districts, and but rarely in the first three.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in district 2.

198. Motacilla melanocephala, Licht.

Budytes melanocephala, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in all four districts.

Vertical range. Breeds commonly in districts 1 and 2, and possibly in 3.

199. Motacilla raii, Bp.

Budytes rayi, var. *flavifrons,* Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Rare on passage in district III., is found on passage and breeds rarely in district IV.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in district 2.

200. Motacilla citreola, Pall.

Budytes citreola, Severtzoff, pp. 67, 139.

Horizontal range. Occurs on passage in districts II., III., and IV.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in districts 1 and 2.

200 *a*. Motacilla citreoloides, Hodgs.

Budytes citreola, var. *melanota,* Severtzoff, pp. 67, 139.

Horizontal range. Breeds and occurs on passage in districts II. and III.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in district 2, and breeds in districts 3 and 4.

201. Anthus campestris, Severtzoff, pp. 67, 141.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts I., II., and III.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 2 and 3, and occurs on passage in the former.

Severtzoff includes also two subspecies of this species which, so far as I can judge from a large series of Tawny Pipits I have examined, I should not consider to be specifically separable from true *A. campestris*. The first of these he calls

Anthus campestris, β. orientalis, Brehm.

Horizontal range. Breeds in all four districts.

Vertical range. Breeds in district 3.

This form, he says (p. 141), has long legs, small hind claws, is greyish brown above, and has light yellowish brown markings on the outer rectrices. The second so-called subspecies, of which he gives no description, is called

Anthus campestris, γ. brachycentrus, Heugl.

Range. Similar to that of the preceding subspecies, but it breeds also in district 2.

202. ANTHUS TRIVIALIS, L.

Anthus arboreus, Severtzoff, pp. 67, 139.

Horizontal range. Breeds and occurs on passage in all four districts, but rarely in the first three.

Vertical range. Occurs rarely on passage in district 1, and commonly in district 2; breeds rarely in districts 3 and 4.

202*a*. ANTHUS PRATENSIS, Severtzoff, pp. 67, 139.

Horizontal range. Occurs on passage in all four districts, and in winter in district IV.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in districts 1 and 2.

At page 139 Severtzoff goes into detail to show that there are in Turkestan intermediate forms between the Tree-Pipit and Meadow-Pipit, which he consequently treats as being two forms of the same species. These notes I need not reproduce; but it may be well to insert the following MS. note written for me by Dr. Severtzoff, viz.:—"I can only consider that the Tree-Pipit and the Meadow-Pipit are locally specifically distinct; for in Turkestan there are several intermediate forms, which I term varieties, as they run into each other, and the differences are not specific. These varieties are:—

"*Anthus intermedius,* Severtzoff, which has the hind claw of varying length, and the typical long slender bill of *Anthus pratensis*.

"*Anthus microrhynchus,* which has the hinder claw as in *Anthus trivialis,* the beak stout, as in *A. pratensis,* but shorter; in shape it is like that of *A. trivialis,* but is considerably smaller.

"*Anthus trivialis* is distinguishable from *A. pratensis* not only by the hind claw, but in having a stouter bill, though about equal in length. The true Meadow-Pipit is only seen in Turkestan on passage, and is scarce; but the two forms *A. intermedius* and *A. microrhynchus* are those which breed commonly in the mountains, on grassy places, where a few bushes are scattered about, at from 5000 to 9000 feet altitude. Typical *A. trivialis* also breeds at similar altitudes, or even higher, say from 7000 to 9000 feet, but is rare. The form known as *Anthus agilis,* Sykes, was also found in 1874 in the mountains east of Kuldja."

I cannot help surmising that, amongst the so-called intermediate forms between the Meadow- and Tree-Pipits, Dr. Severtzoff must have obtained the species which breeds in the Petchora district, in North Russia, and which I have lately described in the 'Birds of Europe' under the name of *Anthus seebohmi*; for this bird has the long hind claw of *Anthus pratensis,* and the wing-formula and general coloration of the upper parts are as in *A. trivialis*; but one good characteristic is that it always has the outer rectrices marked with smoke-grey, and not with white.

203. Anthus cervinus, Pall.

Anthus cervinus, var. *rufogularis,* Severtzoff, pp. 67, 140.

Horizontal range. Rare on passage in district III.

Vertical range. Rare on passage in district 2.

204. Anthus spinoletta, L.

Anthus aquaticus, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds and occurs in winter in all four districts; but it is somewhat uncertain as to whether it really breeds in the last.

Vertical range. Rare in winter in district 1, and common at the same season in district 2; breeds in district 4.

205. OTOCORYS ALPESTRIS, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Rare during winter in district III.

Vertical range. Rare during winter in district 1.

206. Besides the common Shore-Lark, Severtzoff (p. 67) only includes one other species under the name of *Otocorys albigula*; but he now informs me that under this name he has included the following, viz.:—

1. OTOCORYS BRANDTI, Dresser, B. of Eur. pt. xxxiii. Oct. 1874.

Horizontal range. Resident in district III.

Vertical range. Resident in district 1.

2. OTOCORYS LONGIROSTRIS, Gould.

Horizontal range. Breeds, and occurs also in the winter-season, in districts I. and II.

Vertical range. Breeds and occurs in winter in districts 4 and 5.

3. OTOCORYS PENICILLATA, Gould.

Horizontal range. Resident in district III.

Vertical range. Resident in district 3.

207. ALAUDA ARVENSIS, L.; Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Occurs on passage in all four districts, and is very rarely found breeding or in the winter.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in all five districts, and very rarely breeds in districts 3, 4, and 5.

208. ALAUDA GULGULA, Frankl.

Alauda inconspicua (*A. cantarella,* Bp. ?), Severtzoff, pp. 67, 142.

Horizontal range. Breeds in district III.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 1, 2, and 3.

Dr. Severtzoff gives (p. 142) detailed description and measurements of this species, which I do not reproduce, as he now informs me that he has identified it with *Alauda gulgula*; but he adds a MS. note as follows:—"*Alauda cantarella,* Bp.,=*Alauda intermedia,* Swinh.,=*A. triborhyncha,* Hodgs., also breeds in Turkestan, and ranges N.W. to the Ural river."

209. GALERITA CRISTATA, L.

Alauda cristata, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Resident in all four districts.

Vertical range. Resident in districts 1 and 2; breeds in district 3.

210. CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA (Leisl.), Severtzoff, pp. 67, 141, 142.

Horizontal range. Breeds in all four districts.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 1, 2, 3, and 4, commonly in 1 and 2; and occurs on passage in district 4.

At page 142 he writes as follows:—"*Calandrella brachydactyla* during summer inhabits districts around those inhabited by *C. leucophæa* on the west, north, and east, and ranges from the Thian-shan to the steppes of the Syr Darja, Chuish, and Ilish, where, however, in the winter it is replaced by *C. leucophæa.*" As a subspecies he further includes a bird under the name of

Calandrella brachydactyla, β. tenuirostris, at p. 67

(*Horizontal range.* Breeds in district IV.

Vertical range. Breeds in district 2),

but gives no characters by which it may be distinguished.

385. CALANDRELLA PISPOLETTA, Cab. nec Pall.; Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in district IV.

Vertical range. Breeds in district 1.

211. CALANDRELLA LEUCOPHÆA, Severtzoff, pp. 67, 142, 143.

Horizontal range. Breeds and is resident in district III., being, however, numerically scarce.

Vertical range. Breeds and is resident in district 1.

Of this species a careful description is given at page 142; but I cannot describe it better than by calling it a pale desert form of *Calandrella pispoletta,* the species which occurs on the Volga. The measurements are given as follows:—Total length $7''$, extent $11''\ 6'''$, wing $3''\ 8'''$, tail $2''\ 7'''$, tarsus $7\frac{3}{4}'''$, middle toe $4\frac{3}{4}'''$, hind toe $3'''$, hind claw $4\frac{1}{2}'''$, culmen $3\frac{3}{4}'''$, thickness of the bill $2'''$. He further states that it is found in the Syr Darja district, but is not very common, being met with only on passage; for it breeds further north and east in the naked steppes. He met with it on the Lower Emba and Irgisa, in Caracuma, on the northern and western coasts of Lake Aral, on the Ust-Urta, and further south on the eastern shores of the Caspian. When the young are fledged it leads a roving life, but does not range westward as far as the Ural; and in a MS. footnote he adds that in 1874 he found it breeding sporadically in open places in the saxaul-region between the Oxus and the Jaxartes.

212. MELANOCORYPHA CALANDRA (L.); Severtzoff, pp. 67, 143.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts I., II., III., and IV., commonly in all but the last, and occurs rarely in the winter.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 1 and 2, rarely in 1, and commonly in 2.

213. MELANOCORYPHA BIMACULATA (Ménétr.); Severtzoff, pp. 67, 143.

Horizontal range. Similar to that of the preceding species.

Vertical range. Breeds commonly in district 2.

Severtzoff also includes, at page 67, under the name of *M. bimaculata, β. minor,* without description, a subspecies, the range of which is similar to that of *M. bimaculata.*

214. MELANOCORYPHA SIBERICA, Gm.

Melanocorypha leucoptera, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Occurs on passage and in winter in districts I., II., and III.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage and in winter in districts 1 and 2.

215. MELANOCORYPHA YELTONENSIS, Forst.

Melanocorypha tartarica, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts I., II., and III.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 1 and 2, commonly in the former.

216. ? LANIUS EXCUBITOR, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Occurs on passage and in winter in districts I., II., and III.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage and in winter in districts 1 and 2.

Dr. Severtzoff now informs me that the species he included under the name of *Lanius excubitor* is not that bird, as the true *L. excubitor* does not occur in Turkestan; but he has not determined which species it really is, and I am therefore compelled to give it, and Nos. 217–220, under the titles used by him. I may, however, add that he informed me that his *Lanius leucopterus* (No. 217) is, he believes, identical with *Lanius homeyeri*, Cab.

217. LANIUS LEUCOPTERUS, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts I. and II., and occurs on passage in districts I., II., and III.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in regions 1, 2, and 5, and possibly breeds in district 4.

218. LANIUS MAJOR, Pall.; Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Is found on passage and in winter in district I., but is rare.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in district 2, winters in districts 2 and 3, and possibly breeds in district 4.

219. LANIUS LEUCOPYGUS, Hempr.; Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds rarely in district III.

Vertical range. Breeds in district 1, and is found on passage in district 2; rare in both.

220. LANIUS PALLIDIROSTRIS, Cass.; Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds rarely in district III.

Vertical range. Breeds rarely in district 1.

221. LANIUS SCHACH, Gmel. (*erythronotus*, Gould); Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts II., III., and IV.

Vertical range. Breeds in district 1 and 2.

222. LANIUS MINOR, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in all four districts, commonly in I., II., and III.

Vertical range. Breeds rarely in district 1, and commonly in districts 2 and 3.

223. Lanius collurio (L.); Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts III. and IV.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 2 and 3.

224. ? Lanius phœnicurus, Pall.; Severtzoff, pp. 67, 144.

Horizontal range. Breeds in all four districts, commonly in the first three.

Vertical range. Breeds commonly in districts 1, 2, and 3.

225. Lanius isabellinus, Ehr.; Severtzoff, pp. 67, 144.

Horizontal range. Breeds commonly in districts III. and IV.

Vertical range. Breeds commonly in district 1, and occurs on passage in district 2.

Respecting the two preceding species, Nos. 224 and 225, Dr. Severtzoff gives a long note (p. 144), of which it may be advisable to give a detailed translation as follows:—

"In Turkestan there are three forms of *Lanius phœnicurus*, the first of which inhabits the mountains (var. *montana*[*]), the second the lowlands (var. *caniceps*); and the third, the steppe-form, which differs constantly, though slightly, and may be considered a distinct species, is *L. isabellinus*. On examining a considerable series, I did not find any specimens intermediate between *L. phœnicurus* and *L. isabellinus*.

"*L. isabellinus* is larger than *L. phœnicurus*; the tail is rounded, the four central rectrices alone being of equal length, and the rest are graduated so that the outer ones are $4'''$ to $5'''$ shorter than the central ones; the 1st quill is short, being once and a half as long as the coverts, $4=3>5>2>6$, or $4>3>5>6>2$.

"*Adult male in spring.* Crown, nape, and two thirds of the back and shoulders same colour; lores, lower part of the cheeks, and a line above the eye brownish white, and on the upper part of the cheek there is a black line; rump and tail light brown; underparts light brownish, with a yellowish tinge, in old birds with a rose tinge, which is most apparent on the sides; throat and breast sometimes pure white; quills dark greyish brown, with pale yellowish grey margins, the three inner secondaries lighter brownish grey; the base of the 5th to the 8th primaries white, forming a white patch, which is sometimes concealed by the coverts.

---

[*] *Sic.*—H. E. D.

"*Adult female.* Differs from the male merely in having the black line on the side of the head shorter, this line being surrounded by white feathers.

"The young of both sexes are varied with brown and greyish spots and lines; the larger wing-coverts and the inner secondaries have broad light edges; there is no white patch on the wing; and the underparts are barred with brown, the barrings being narrower and wider apart than those on the upper parts; the dark markings on the cheeks are not black, but brownish, the feathers having black edges; tail light brownish, barred with brown; rump light reddish brown.

"After the first moult the crown, nape, and back are as in the adult, the wings, tail, and cheeks as in the younger bird; the lower throat and sides are marked as in the very young bird, but the throat and centre of the abdomen as in the adult. The male has the barrings on the abdomen narrower in this plumage than the female After the third moult the male gets his full plumage,—but the female not until after the fourth moult, as after the third moult the sides are still marked as in the young; but it breeds in this dress.

"In all plumages the legs are blackish plumbeous; the bill is black in the adult, and yellowish grey at the base and brown at the tip in the young. Total length 8″–8″ 5‴, extent 11″ 1‴–12″, wing 3″ 5‴–3″ 8‴, tail 3″ 1½‴–3″ 2½‴, culmen 5½‴, thickness of bill 2½‴, tarsus 9‴–9½‴, middle toe 6½‴.

"In *Lanius phœnicurus* the ten central tail-feathers are uniform in length, the two outer ones being 4‴ shorter; the alar patch is larger, and extends over nine primaries, from the 2nd to the 10th, and is not concealed by the coverts; the upper parts are darker and greyer (brownish grey); the wings are blackish brown, the feathers having light edges; tail reddish brown; lores black, like the upper part of the cheeks; underparts light rose-coloured; sides brownish. The differences in plumage are similar to those in *L. isabellinus.* First primary short, longer than the coverts, $3=4>5>2>6$, or 3rd longest, $2=5$. Length of the male 7″ 5‴, extent

10″ 8‴, wing 3″ 5‴, tail 3″; length of the female 8″ 1‴, extent 11″ 4‴, wing 3″ 7¼‴, tail 3″ 2‴: but these differences in size are not constant.

"The mountain form of *L. phœnicurus* (var. *ruficeps*[*]) differs in being darker in colour; the back and scapulars in fresh plumage are pure brown slightly shaded with grey; but in spring these parts are greyer; the head is always brownish mixed with red, almost as rufous as the tail, which, with the rump, is dark reddish brown, with a chestnut tinge in fresh plumage. The lowland form (var. *caniceps*) has the upper parts greyer, being grey tinged with brown, being purer grey in the males and young birds; head similarly coloured; wings, tail, and underparts as in the mountain form. The mountain form inhabits chiefly the wooded portions of the Thian-shan to an altitude of from 7000 to 8000 feet; and the lowland form occurs in the bushes and thorn-thickets near Syr Darja, Mi, and Lepsa, below 1000 feet. In the cultivated districts both forms are found in gardens, and intermediate specimens may be found. As regards *L. isabellinus,* numbers were obtained on passage in spring in Chimkent and Tashkend, between the 20th February and the 20–25th March; but in the autumn it was not observed there, though it was seen in Aulje-ata early in September. It breeds in the steppes near Balchash, Chu, and Talass.

"Neither of the two forms of *L. phœnicurus* arrives in Tashkend and Chimkent before the early part of April."

In a MS. footnote he adds that the species he includes as *L. phœnicurus* should stand as *L. phœnicuroïdes,* Severtz.

226. ORIOLUS GALBULA, L.; Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds commonly in all four districts.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 1, 2, and 3.

In a MS. note Severtzoff adds that *Oriolus kundoo,* Sykes, also occurs in Turkestan, as he has lately discovered by an examination of his specimens of Orioles obtained there. The range of this species is as follows:—

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts II., III., and IV.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 2 and 3.

---

[*] *Sic.*—H. E. D.

227. Ampelis garrulus, L.

Bombycilla garrula, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Rare in winter in districts I., II., and III.

Vertical range. Rare in winter in districts 2 and 3.

228. Tschitrea paradisi, L.

Muscipeta castanea (Temm.); Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds and occurs on passage in districts I. and III.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in district 2, and breeds in district 3.

229. Muscicapa grisola (L.); Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Occurs on passage in all four districts, and breeds in districts I., II., and III.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in districts 1 and 2, commonly in the latter, and breeds in district 3.

230. Muscicapa parva, Bechst.; Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Is rare on passage in districts III. and IV.

Vertical range. Occurs rarely on passage in district 2.

231. Hirundo rustica, L.

Hirundo domestica, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in all four districts, commonly in the first three.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 1 and 2.

232. Hirundo rufula, Temm.

Hirundo alpestris, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in all four districts.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in district 2, and breeds in district 3.

233. Chelidon lagopoda, Pall.

Hirundo lagopoda, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Occurs on passage in all four districts.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in districts 2 and 3, and possibly breeds in the latter.

234. Cotyle riparia (L.); Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Occurs on passage in districts I., III., and IV., and breeds in the two latter.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage and breeds in districts 1 and 2.

235. Cotyle rupestris, Scop.; Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts II., III., and IV.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in district 2, and breeds in districts 3 and 4, rarely in the latter.

236. Cypselus apus, L.

Cypselus murarius, Severtzoff, p. 67.

Horizontal range. Occurs commonly on passage, and breeds rarely, in all four districts.

Vertical range. Occurs on passage in districts 1 and 2, and breeds rarely in districts 3 and 4.

237. ? Cypselus affinis, Gray; Severtzoff, p. 57.

Horizontal range. Possibly breeds in district IV.

Vertical range. Possibly breeds in district 3.

238. Cypselus melba (L.); Severtzoff, pp. 67, 145.

Horizontal range. Breeds sporadically in districts III. and IV.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 2 and 3.

At page 145 he writes as follows:—"The sporadic occurrence of *Cypselus melba* is somewhat remarkable. I only obtained one specimen in Karatau, on some rocks, and met with it again about 300 versts to the south, in a small rocky chain called Mogot-tau, near Chodjent; but it has not been observed between these two places, nor east of Karatau. Mr. Fedchanko, however, observed it in 1869 in Samarcand. It breeds numerously near Boroldai, and a few pairs near Chodjent, as also in Samarcand. Specimens from Turkestan agree closely with European examples."

239. Caprimulgus pallens, Sev.

Caprimulgus europæus, var. *pallens*, Severtzoff, pp. 67, 145.

Horizontal range. Breeds in all four districts.

Vertical range. Breeds in districts 1, 2, and 3, rarely in the first.

In a MS. note at page 145, Dr. Severtzoff writes as follows :—"My *C. pallens* is a somewhat doubtful species, and may prove identical with a Chinese specimen in the Paris Museum labelled *Caprimulgus stictomus*, but which Mr. Swinhoe considers to be merely a pale specimen of *C. monticola*, and says that the true *C. stictomus* is confined to Formosa, and does not occur on the mainland of Asia. I have taken an accurate description of the Paris bird to compare with my specimen, which is in Russia. The pale form of *C. europæus*, from the Ural river, is not intermediate between *C. europæus* and my *C. pallens*. This pale form I have found breeding on the east side of Lake Aral, and near the Lower Oxus, where the bird runs rather smaller than in Europe, but in coloration it is identical with Ural examples. It would be well to compare these with *C. indicus*, Lath., and *C. mahrattensis*, Sykes, as the matter requires further investigation."

240. CAPRIMULGUS ARENICOLOR, Severtzoff, Ibis, 1875, p. 491.

Caprimulgus isabellinus, Temm.; Severtzoff, p. 68.

Horizontal range. Breeds in districts III. and IV., rarely in the former.

Vertical range. Breeds in district 1.

A careful description of this species is given in 'The Ibis' (*l. c.*) by Dr. Severtzoff, who, in a MS. note, gives me the following particulars :—"There is no constant difference in colour between the young and old birds; but the former are recognizable by their laxer plumage on the body. This lax plumage is moulted in July, soon after the young leave the nest, and when they are in family parties with their parents; and, judging from these parties, two or three young are reared from each nest. About the end of August these family parties break up; and then the young have lost the immature plumage, except as regards the under tail-coverts. After leaving their parents they are found in pairs; and the old birds leave the Lower Oxus about the first half of September, the young remaining till the end of that month, and some few until the middle of October. I met with the present species near the Lower Oxus, and in the undulating thinly bush-covered sand-wastes, as also in the densely bush-covered alluvial marly-clay country, never very far from water, round which they fly after sunset. On the Lower Syr (Jaxartes) it was rarer; and here I first noticed it,—and received specimens also from Krasnovodsk, on the east coast of the Caspian."

[To be continued.]

XIX.—*Ornithological Notes made during Trips between Bloemfontein and the Lydenburg Gold-fields.* By F. A. Barratt.

(Plate IV.)

On my first journey I started from Kingwilliamstown in the Cape colony, having well stocked my light waggon with all the ammunition and apparatus necessary for collecting, not forgetting my "Layard;" but I did not keep any particular record of the birds obtained in the district, and I propose to treat in the present paper only of the birds observed in the northern part of the Orange Free State, from Bloemfontein onwards; my notes made during sundry expeditions in the Transvaal Republic will also be embodied.

Leaving the capital in the month of February, we had scarcely proceeded two or three miles, when we came upon about a dozen Stanley Cranes (*Anthropoides stanleyanus*) sporting and dancing; to their considerable astonishment I dropped a bullet among them, which made them stalk off majestically, shaking their beautiful long plumes as they went. About four miles further on we came to Rhinoceros Spruit, where large numbers of Coursers were gliding, as it were, in and out of the stunted herbage; whilst Plovers (*Hoplopterus coronatus*) were wheeling about in every direction, uttering their harsh cries. Thence we went to the Modder river; and in the vleys running parallel with the stream were to be seen the pretty Weaverbirds (*Euplectes taha*) bobbing up and down like a golden ball, and *Chera progne* with its gracefully sweeping tail. It was in the bush near the above-named river that I first shot the Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Coccystes glan-*